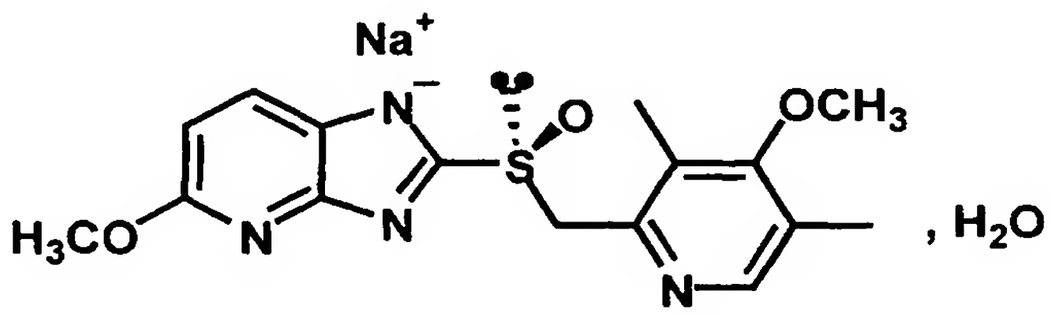
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) The monohydrated sodium salt of S-tenatoprazole represented by the general formula (II):



2. (Previously Presented) A concentrated solution of monohydrated sodium salt of S-tenatoprazole according to claim 1, wherein the concentration in monohydrated salt is higher than or equal to 50 g/l.

3. (Original) A concentrated solution according to claim 2, wherein the concentration in monohydrated salt is higher than or equal to 100 g/l.

4. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the monohydrated sodium salt of S-tenatoprazole according to claim 1, associated to one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients ~~and substrates~~.

5. (Original) A composition according to claim 4, wherein it is under the form of unitary doses containing from 10 to 80 mg of active principle.

6. (Original) A composition according to claim 5, wherein the unitary dose is comprised between 15 and 40 mg.

7. (Previously Presented) A method for the treatment of digestive diseases comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of the monohydrated sodium salt of S-tenatoprazole substantially free from the (+) enantiomer or R-tenatoprazole.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A method of treatment according to claim 7, wherein the digestive diseases are selected from gastro-oesophageal reflux disease and digestive bleeding in polymedicamented patients.

10. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 4, wherein the pharmaceutical composition exhibits improved pharmacokinetic properties.

11. (Previously Presented) A method of preparation of the monohydrated sodium salt of S-tenatoprazole according to claim 1, wherein sodium hydroxide is caused to react on S-tenatoprazole at a temperature between 50 and 700°C, and the salt obtained is precipitated after elimination of the solvent.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein the reaction temperature is about 600°C.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein the reaction is conducted in a solvent selected from the group consisting of water, chloroform, DMS0, methanol, and ethanol.

14. (Original) An enantioselective method of preparation of the monohydrated sodium salt of S-tenatoprazole, wherein an enantioselective oxidation is conducted on a sulphide of the following general formulation (I)

$$A — CH_2 — S — B \qquad (I)$$

where A is a 4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridyl group and B represents a 5-methoxy-imidazo[4, 5-b]pyridyl group,
using an oxidising agent in the presence of a vanadium based catalyst and a chiral ligand in a specific sulphide solvent and a specific ligand solvent, followed by salification by sodium hydroxide, in order to obtain the monohydrated sodium salt of S-tenatoprazole.

15. (Previously Presented) A composition for oral administration of the monohydrated sodium salt of S-tenatoprazole according to claim 1, comprising a mixture of a diluent, a disintegrating agent and the monohydrated sodium salt of S-tenatoprazole, being covered with an enteric film.

16. (Original) A composition according to claim 15, wherein the diluent is a cellulosic diluent.

17. (Original) A composition according to claim 16, wherein the diluent is an excipient for direct compression.

18. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 15, wherein the disintegrating agent is a cellulosic polymer.

19. (Original) A composition according to claim 18, wherein the disintegrating agent is sodium croscarmellose.

20. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 18, wherein the cellulosic polymer is a cellulose carboxymethyl polymer.